AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method for producing a fusion protein, ~~expressing a gene in a bacterial cell~~ comprising:

(a) transforming ~~providing an expression vector to~~ a population of a gram-negative bacteria ~~untransformed bacterial cells~~with an expression vector encoding a fusion protein, wherein said fusion protein comprises ~~the expression vector comprises an expression cassette comprising~~ an export protein linked ~~coding sequence genetically fused~~ to a protein of interest, wherein said export protein is *Salmonella enterica* serovar Typhi (*S.* Typhi) cytolysin A (ClyA) protein (SEQ ID NO:2) or *E. coli* HlyE protein (SEQ ID NO:28);

(b) culturing transformed bacteria of (a) in a culture medium under conditions such that said fusion protein is expressed ~~expressing the expression cassette such that an export protein::protein of interest fusion protein is produced~~ and exported into the culture medium.

2. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said gram-negative bacteria is ~~bacterial cells is a~~ *S.* Typhi ~~cell~~.

3. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said gram-negative bacteria is ~~bacterial cell is an~~ *Escherichia coli* ~~cell~~.

4. (canceled).

5. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said ~~the~~ export protein has ~~coding sequence encodes~~ the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2~~No:2~~.

6. (canceled).

7. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the protein of interest is an antigen.

8-20. (Cancelled).

21. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein said fusion protein is collected from said culture medium.

22. (New) A method for producing a fusion protein, comprising:

(a) transforming a population of a gram-negative bacteria with an expression vector encoding a fusion protein, wherein said fusion protein comprises an export protein linked to a protein of interest, wherein said export protein is *S.* Typhi ClyA protein (SEQ ID NO:2);

(b) culturing transformed bacteria of (a) in a culture medium under conditions such that said fusion protein is expressed and exported into the culture medium.

23. (New) The method of Claim 22, wherein said fusion protein is collected from said culture medium.

24. (New) A method for producing a fusion protein, comprising:

(a) transforming a population of a gram-negative bacteria with an expression vector encoding a fusion protein, wherein said fusion protein comprises an export protein linked to a protein of interest, wherein said export protein has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 having an amino acid substitution at one or more of positions 180, 185, 187, and 193 so as to attenuate hemolytic activity of said export protein;

(b) culturing transformed bacteria of (a) in a culture medium under conditions such that said fusion protein is expressed and exported into the culture medium.

25. (new) A method for producing a fusion protein, comprising:

(a) transforming a population of a gram-negative bacteria with an expression vector encoding a fusion protein, wherein said fusion protein comprises an export protein linked to a protein of interest, wherein said export protein is *Salmonella paratyphi* ClyA protein (SEQ ID NO:24).

(b) culturing transformed bacteria of (a) in a culture medium under conditions such that said fusion protein is expressed and exported into the culture medium.

26. (new) The method of Claim 25, wherein the protein of interest is an antigen.